

**Rep. Glenn Anderson**  
**Rep. Cheryl Pflug**

# Special Session Alert!

“The Democrats’ final budget required \$360 million in tax increases, plus \$100 million more than the Republican budget in cuts to nursing homes, the developmentally disabled, etc.—all to pay for \$460 million in pay raises for public employees.”

## Legislature debates tax increases: ***Yes or no?***

The 2003 legislative session ended on April 27, but lawmakers must return to Olympia for a special session to complete work on the state’s two-year operating budget.

A responsible plan to balance the state budget without tax increases was in place weeks before the session ended. It was an approach supported by Republicans in both the House and Senate, and endorsed by the governor.

But the no-new-tax budget was blocked by Democrat leaders in the House, who fought to the end for tax increases to fund pay raises for public employees. The Democrats’ final budget required \$360 million in taxes increases, plus \$100 million more than the Republican budget in cuts to nursing homes, the developmentally

disabled, etc.—all to pay for \$460 million in pay raises for public employees.

We believe raising taxes during a recession will further undermine our struggling economy. It seems unfair to raise taxes on people, many of whom have taken pay cuts or lost their jobs, in order to give raises to state employees who have secure jobs and generous benefits.

**On May 12, the Legislature will reconvene to settle this issue. We are committed to adopting a sustainable budget that respects your priorities and makes government live within its means, just as you do at home.**

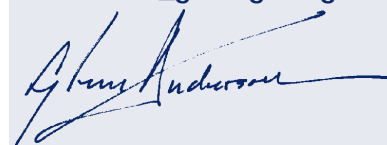
### State budget proposals being considered in Olympia:

Governor’s Plan	Bipartisan Senate Plan	House Republican Plan	House Democrat plan
Requires no new taxes	Requires no new taxes	Requires no new taxes	Requires a \$360 million tax increase now, plus more new taxes in 2005

***Please let us hear what you think:***

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